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East Timor Hopes to Achieve a Target of 7000 New Participants in Family Planning

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BKKBN (National Family Planning Coordination Agency) of East Timor has set a target for 1987/1988 of 7000 new participants in the family planning program and 11,000 active participants, or about 12.94 of the 80,000 fertile couples in the province.

The implementation of the program will be divided into three phases, according to the head of BKKBN-East Timor Drs P.N.Gorde: Phase I, April-July 1987 has a target of 1,400 new participants and 7,400 active members; Phase II, August-December 1987, 4,200 new participants and 2,700 active ones; and Phase III, January-March 1988, 1,400 new participants and 900 active ones.

The fmaily planning program in East Timor which began with the Third Five Year Plan was for the most part still at the stage of expanding its outreach in the year 1986/87. But if one looks at the results of a program evaluation, there are several kabupatens which are already at the level of Phase II, 15 percent of the fertile couples having accepted family planning. These include Dili and Liquisa.

Other kabupatens are approaching Phase II and others still need attention because the level of acceptance is below five percent of fertile couples.

In the year 1986/87, East Timor had 6,983 active family planning participants or 49.29 percent of the target set of 14,000 participants, while new particpants totalled 4,209 or only 35.08 percent of the target of 12,000 new participants.